

What's planned for your neighborhood?

Using online resources to research activity

One question that arises on a regular basis is what development is planned for my area. There is no easy answer to this question, but if you track several resources you can stay informed about new development or redevelopment in your area.



Platting

If a tract of land is being subdivided, a developer/owner must file a plat. If land is already subdivided and the developer/owner wants to change the original platting, they would file a replat. These plats and replats are considered every other week (Thursdays) by the Houston Planning Commission. An email notification is sent every other week that contains items to be considered by the Planning Commission.

To subscribe to this report, go to www.houstonplanning.com and click on Development Regs. From there scroll to On Line Reference and click on "Sign up for Plat Summary E-Report." The report is in an Excel spreadsheet and you can sort by zip code or key map area to see proposed projects in your area. Aside from the report, you can also pull up the biweekly agenda if you select the Planning Commission button from the same web site and click on "Planning Commission Agenda/DRC system."

If you have questions about a particular plat, the number to the applicant is listed on the report, or you can call the Planning Department's Planner of the Day at 713-837-7701.

Permits

All construction projects (both new and remodel) inside the Houston city limits are required to have building permits. You can track permits by signing up for the weekly email notification of permits. Go to the Public Works web site at: http://www.publicworks.cityofhouston.gov/planning/enforcement/subscribe_permit.htm. For questions about a particular permit, you can call 713-535-7500. To research permit data, go to www.houstonpermits.com and click on "Sold Permits."

Other resources

You can check the weekly City Council agenda at <http://www.houstontx.gov/citysec/agenda.html> to check for everything from street construction projects to affordable housing projects that are receiving city funds. If you have questions about a particular item, contact your city council member (<http://www.houstontx.gov/council/index.html>).

For property ownership information, go to the Harris County Appraisal District at www.hcad.org.

If you need a city service or want to report a problem to the city, you can do that online at https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller.

